

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 1313

BY REPRESENTATIVE DIXON

TEACHERS: Requires local school superintendents to provide certain information to teachers who acquire tenure

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:442, relative to teacher tenure; to require each superintendent
3 of a public school system to provide certain information to a teacher employed in the
4 system who acquires permanent status as a teacher; to provide for legislative
5 findings; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:442 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §442. Probation and tenure of ~~parish or city~~ public school teachers; findings

9 A. The legislature finds that the state and the nation have a clear
10 commitment to the goal of assuring that there is a highly qualified and effective
11 teacher in every classroom. The legislature further finds that the purpose for the
12 guarantees and protections for teachers provided by this Section is to assure that
13 students are provided with high quality, effective teachers who are free from political
14 or personal retribution and are guaranteed the right to teach in accordance with best
15 practices and with the best interests of their students as their primary concern.

16 B. Each teacher shall serve a probationary term of three years to be reckoned
17 from the date of his first appointment in the ~~parish or city~~, parish, or other local
18 public school system in which the teacher is serving his probation. ~~During the~~
19 ~~probationary term the parish or city school board, as the case may be;~~ At any time
20 during a teacher's probationary term, the city, parish, or other local public school

1 board employing such teacher may dismiss or discharge ~~any probationary~~ the teacher
2 upon the written recommendation of the ~~parish or city~~ superintendent of schools, as
3 ~~the case may be, the school system~~ accompanied by valid reasons therefor.

4 C. Any teacher found unsatisfactory by the ~~parish or city school board, as the~~
5 ~~case may be, city, parish, or other local public school board~~ at the expiration of ~~the~~
6 ~~said~~ his probationary term, shall be notified in writing by the ~~board~~ superintendent
7 of the school system that he has been discharged or dismissed; in the absence of such
8 notification, such ~~probationary~~ teacher ~~shall~~ automatically shall become a regular
9 and permanent teacher in the ~~employ of the school board of the parish or city, as the~~
10 ~~case may be, city, parish, or other local public school system~~ in which he has
11 successfully served his ~~three year~~ probationary term; ~~all teachers in the employ of~~
12 ~~any parish or city school board as of July 31, 1946 who hold proper certificates and~~
13 ~~who have served satisfactorily as teachers in that parish or city for more than three~~
14 ~~consecutive years, are declared to be regular and permanent teachers in the employ~~
15 ~~of the school board of that parish or city.~~

16 D. The superintendent of each school system shall send a congratulatory
17 letter to each teacher employed in his school system who successfully completes the
18 probationary term and becomes a regular and permanent teacher. Such letter shall
19 include information regarding all applicable tenure laws, the rights granted to the
20 teacher by the school system, and the expectations of the school system for the
21 teacher as it relates to his employment.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Dixon

HB No. 1313

Abstract: Requires superintendents of public school systems to provide certain information to teachers employed in their respective systems who acquire permanent status as a teacher.

Present law (R.S. 17:442) requires each teacher to serve a probationary term of three years beginning on the date of his first appointment in the parish or city where he is serving his probation. Authorizes local school boards to dismiss or discharge any probationary teacher

upon written recommendation of the local superintendent accompanied by valid reasons therefor. Provides that any teacher found unsatisfactory by the local school board at the expiration of the probationary term shall be notified in writing by the board that he has been discharged or dismissed. Provides that in the absence of such notification, the teacher shall automatically become a regular and permanent teacher.

Proposed law retains present law and adds a requirement that the superintendent of each school system send a congratulatory letter to each teacher employed in his school system who successfully completes the probationary term and becomes a regular and permanent teacher. Requires that the letter include information about all applicable tenure laws, the rights granted to the teacher by the school system, and the expectations of the school system for the teacher as it relates to his employment. Proposed law changes present law requirement for the local board to notify a teacher that he is being discharged or dismissed to instead require such notification by the local superintendent.

(Amends R.S. 17:442)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Changed present law requirement for the local board to notify a teacher that he is being discharged or dismissed to instead require such notification by the local superintendent.
2. Added "effective" to proposed law references to highly qualified/high quality teachers.